

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Masaharu KONDO *et al.*  
Serial No. : Unassigned (§53(b) Cont. of 09/888,645 filed 26 June 2001)  
Filed : 19 March 2004  
For : RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS,  
ERROR CORRECTING CODING METHOD  
AND INFORMATION RECORDING METHOD  
Art Unit : Unassigned (Parent - 2697)  
Examiner : Unassigned (Parent - G.P. Rodriguez)  
Conf. No. : Unassigned (Parent - 9108)

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY**

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents

POB 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

19 March 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a USPTO mailing date of 29 July 2003, the following is respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

In accordance with the revised format of the manner of making amendments under 37 CFR §1.121 as set forth in the Final Rule effective 30 July 2003, each section of amendment herein begins on a new page, and changes are shown by strike-through (or double brackets where appropriate) and underlining to indicate deletions and additions, respectively. A complete listing of all claims ever presented in the application is given with the current status of each claim, and only the text of all pending and withdrawn claims is presented in full, with those not being amended herein being presented in clean version.